

Immigrant Species of Lepidoptera at the Light Trap in West Surrey in 1976

By R. F. BREThERTON, C.B., M.A., F.R.E.S.

One of the outstanding features of moth trap attendances at Bramley, Surrey, in 1976 was an assortment of the scarcer immigrant species which is unusually large for an inland locality. The trap was operated nightly until well into November, the only significant gaps being from 7th to 28th July and 29th to 31st August. The dates given below are those of the night beginning on the day mentioned.

Spodoptera exigua Hübner. 4th July, one fresh male.

Oria musculosa Hübner. 4th July, one female, very small and so pale that the usual white streaks on the forewings are hardly distinguishable from the ground colour. At the time I thought that the very early date for this species was due to the hot summer, and that this specimen was an internal wanderer, perhaps from an unknown colony in Surrey; but after comparing it with a similar one taken on the same night by Mr. Siggs in the New Forest, I conclude that they were both primary immigrants, like my own *S. exigua* and several other immigrant species which have since been reported on or about that date elsewhere.

Syngrapha interrogationis L. 10th August, one male of a Continental form—*vide Ent. Rec.*, 88:255.

Rhodometra sacraria L. 30th September, one male, tattered and rubbed.

Cyclophora puppillaria Hübner. 10th October, one male, slightly worn.

Mythimna vitellina Hübner. 13th October, one female f. *pallida* Warren. After four days of refusal this laid 150 eggs compactly under a sheath of grass. Kept in a living room at 60°/70°F., these hatched about 28th October, and the resultant moths began to emerge on 20th December.

Heterographis oblitella Zell. I am uncertain how much, if anything, this year's abundance of this species owed to immigration; but I certainly had my share of it: 30th June, one; 11th August, one; 26th August, two; 25th September, two—all in good condition. I have not seen it here before; but the dates suggest that in this year, at least, it was breeding nearby.

This list of relative rarities is the more surprising because the numbers of the regular immigrant species were not outstanding:

Autographa gamma L. began on 26th May and ended on 25th October; but on no night were as many as 10 in the trap, and the total, 103, is less than half the average for the previous twelve years.

Agrotis ipsilon Hufnagel began with one on 9th June and four more singles about the end of the month. In August it became fairly regular, with a maximum of seven on 17th; it

* Folly Hill, Birtley Green, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey, GU5 0LE.

continued to appear on many nights through September and until 30th October, but mostly singly. Except in mid-August there was little sign of any migratory influx, and local breeding from the June immigrants probably accounted for many of the August and later specimens. The year's total of 190 was little above the average.

Peridroma saucia Hübner gave only four singles, on 6th July and 6th, 8th and 22nd September.

Nomophila noctuella D. & S. also gave only four—one on 6th July, two on 4th August, and one on 15th August.

Udea martialis Hübner was not seen at all.

In summary, it appears that during the prolonged anti-cyclonic period, when winds were mainly from the north or east, there were few immigrants to Surrey, except for the single big influx around 4th July. Arrivals from the east were disappointing, apart from my own *S. interrogationis* and, among the butterflies, half a dozen *Nymphalis antiopa* L., which I was not fortunate enough to see myself. But we had more than our usual share of stragglers from the south western immigrants which became numerous on the south coast from late August onwards. The last half of October and early November were, however, disappointing here, perhaps because of the almost continuous rain and the low day temperatures which ushered in a gloomy and sunless autumn to off-set the brilliance of the summer.

Notes and Observations

SYMBIOTES LATUS REDT. (COL.: ENDOMYCHIDAE) IN EAST AND WEST KENT. — The sole published Kent record of this uncommon beetle appears to be of one specimen under bark of a rotten log at Bexley (K. C. Side, 1957). I took a few under bark of a dead fallen or felled poplar at Abbey Wood in 1964-65, but it seemed very scarce. Both localities are in the north of West Kent, and I can also report the species from the eastern vice-county — my friend Mr. G. Shephard having taken at least three or four examples from an old ash tree in Napchester Wood, near Dover (vii.70). I only once came across *S. latus* in any numbers (Whitewebbs Wood, Enfield, Middx., in a section of log or post forming one of the supports of a rustic seat, v.42). In Windsor Forest I have met with it but twice, singly, both times associated with beech. — A. A. ALLEN.

THE PINE BEAUTY (PANOLIS FLAMMEA D. & S.) IN EASTBOURNE IN 1977. — On the night of the 12th of April this year, I was pleased to find a perfect specimen of this moth in an actinic light trap at Friston Forest. This is the first ever record of this moth being taken in Eastbourne. Adkin (1930) does not list this species, and I am not aware of any other record for the area. — MARK HADLEY, 7 Beverington Close, Eastbourne, Sussex.